

Carolyn Smith, et al. v. Jefferson County, Mississippi, et al.

James Ellis

April 18, 2025

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EXHIBIT 6

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
WESTERN DIVISION

CAROLYN SMITH, ET AL

PLAINTIFFS

V. CIVIL ACTION NO. 5:24-CV-0072-DCB-ASH

JEFFERSON COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI, ET AL

DEFENDANTS

DEPOSITION OF JAMES ELLIS

Taken at the instance of the Defendants at the Law
Offices of Carroll Rhodes, 119 Downing Street,
Hazlehurst, Mississippi 39083, on Friday,
April 18, 2025,
beginning at 2:00 p.m.

REPORTED BY:

ROBIN G. BURWELL, CCR #1651

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<p>1 APPEARANCES:</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 CARROLL RHODES, ESQ.</p> <p>4 Law Offices of Carroll Rhodes</p> <p>5 Post Office Box 588</p> <p>6 Hazlehurst, Mississippi 39083</p> <p>7 crhode@bellsouth.net</p> <p>8</p> <p>9 COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF</p> <p>10</p> <p>11 THOMAS L. CARPENTER, ESQ.</p> <p>12 Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway</p> <p>13 2510 14th Street, Suite 1125</p> <p>14 Gulfport, Mississippi 39501</p> <p>15 tlc@wisecarter.com</p> <p>16</p> <p>17 COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT</p> <p>18</p> <p>19 ALSO PRESENT:</p> <p>20 Carolyn Smith</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p>1 JAMES ELLIS,</p> <p>2 having been first duly sworn, was examined and</p> <p>3 testified as follows:</p> <p>4 EXAMINATION BY MR. CARPENTER:</p> <p>5 Q. Mr. Ellis, would you give us your full</p> <p>6 name?</p> <p>7 A. James Ellis, Jr.</p> <p>8 Q. And what is your address?</p> <p>9 A. 1952 Main Street, Fayette, Mississippi.</p> <p>10 Q. And what do you currently do?</p> <p>11 A. Work at Alcorn State University.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. And what do you do there?</p> <p>13 A. Greeter.</p> <p>14 Q. And how much does that pay?</p> <p>15 A. Ten -- 10 something. \$10.30, something</p> <p>16 like that.</p> <p>17 Q. Gotcha. And what were you making in</p> <p>18 December of '23 at the correctional -- at The</p> <p>19 Facility?</p> <p>20 A. Ten.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. And when did you start at Alcorn?</p> <p>22 A. September the 16th.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay. Of '24?</p> <p>24 A. Yeah, '24.</p> <p>25 Q. And between January 1st of '24 and</p>
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<p>1 INDEX</p> <p>2 Style.....1</p> <p>3 Appearances.....2</p> <p>4 Index3</p> <p>5 Certificate of Deponent27</p> <p>6 Certificate of Court Reporter28</p> <p>7 EXAMINATIONS</p> <p>8 Examination By Mr. Carpenter4</p> <p>9 Examination By Mr. Rhodes25</p> <p>10 Examination By Mr. Carpenter26</p> <p>11 EXHIBITS</p> <p>12 Exhibit 7 Letter12</p> <p>13 Exhibit 8 Medical Records25</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p>1 September of '24, what were you doing?</p> <p>2 A. Nothing.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay. Were you looking for work?</p> <p>4 A. Yeah, I was doing applications. Online</p> <p>5 applications, yeah.</p> <p>6 Q. And were you also drawing unemployment</p> <p>7 compensation?</p> <p>8 A. Yeah.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay. And that was for about six</p> <p>10 months?</p> <p>11 A. No, about -- I'd say about three months,</p> <p>12 maybe.</p> <p>13 Q. All right. And so between when the</p> <p>14 unemployment ran out in September, was there</p> <p>15 anything you were doing for money or compensation?</p> <p>16 A. Yeah, like little odds and ends. You</p> <p>17 know, little jobs on the side, yeah.</p> <p>18 Q. About how much, if you had to estimate,</p> <p>19 that you would get from that maybe in a week?</p> <p>20 A. A week? I say some weeks would less</p> <p>21 than others, so I'd say about three, sometimes 350</p> <p>22 a week.</p> <p>23 Q. Fair enough.</p> <p>24 And once you started at Alcorn, do you</p> <p>25 still do that, those side jobs?</p>

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<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay. And you were a correctional</p> <p>3 officer at The Facility?</p> <p>4 A. Yeah.</p> <p>5 Q. When did you start?</p> <p>6 A. January the 1st of '16, if I'm not</p> <p>7 mistaken.</p> <p>8 Q. All right. And that was with Sheriff</p> <p>9 Walker?</p> <p>10 A. Yeah.</p> <p>11 Q. What did you do as a correctional</p> <p>12 officer at The Facility in terms of like -- I</p> <p>13 heard control one, control two, things like that</p> <p>14 mentioned.</p> <p>15 A. Like count the inmates and make sure</p> <p>16 everything's safe, you know, stuff like that.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you work predominately on the floor?</p> <p>18 A. Yeah.</p> <p>19 Q. All right. And going into the election</p> <p>20 of 2023 -- and you knew Shawn Jones?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah.</p> <p>22 Q. And he was your neighbor?</p> <p>23 A. My cousin, yeah.</p> <p>24 Q. And your cousin. Okay.</p> <p>25 I was reading the complaint. And it</p>	<p>1 A. Yeah.</p> <p>2 Q. What do you recall about what he said in</p> <p>3 that meeting?</p> <p>4 A. Well, really he was just talking,</p> <p>5 really, much about nothing. But he really was</p> <p>6 saying he needed me to be loyal to him. That was</p> <p>7 the main thing.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. When was that meeting?</p> <p>9 A. It was in '23, if I'm not mistaken. I</p> <p>10 don't know exactly what month, what time.</p> <p>11 Q. Fair enough.</p> <p>12 All right. And so did you say anything</p> <p>13 to him about that, what he had to say at the</p> <p>14 meeting?</p> <p>15 A. No. Just shook my head.</p> <p>16 Q. I hear you.</p> <p>17 Did -- then there was some more on the</p> <p>18 driveway and the parking lot, whatnot. Because it</p> <p>19 said that James Ellis was a neighbor to Shawn</p> <p>20 Jones. Wasn't next door neighbors, you just lived</p> <p>21 in the neighborhood with Mr. Jones?</p> <p>22 A. Yeah, like I say, he live like three</p> <p>23 houses up on the other side.</p> <p>24 Q. And what the paragraph 94 says, "He,"</p> <p>25 being you, "told Sheriff Bailey he stopped at his</p>
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<p>1 was -- it says in paragraph 93, "Sheriff Bailey</p> <p>2 told James Ellis that he saw his patrol car parked</p> <p>3 in Shawn Jones' yard and he was not supporting</p> <p>4 him, Bailey, for reelection."</p> <p>5 Was that your patrol car or your</p> <p>6 personal car?</p> <p>7 A. I ain't never drove a patrol car.</p> <p>8 Q. Yes, sir. So I was thinking maybe it</p> <p>9 might have been your personal car?</p> <p>10 A. Yeah, because he live right like right</p> <p>11 up the street from me, on the other side, two</p> <p>12 houses up. And yeah, I was at his house. I seen</p> <p>13 James Bailey pass by plenty times, also.</p> <p>14 Q. So did Sheriff Bailey talk to you about</p> <p>15 how he saw his car parked -- your car parked in</p> <p>16 your driveway?</p> <p>17 A. No, he never did say anything about</p> <p>18 that.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. What did he say?</p> <p>20 A. Well, we had a meeting and he told me he</p> <p>21 need me to be loyal to him.</p> <p>22 Q. Now, a lot of folks that have testified</p> <p>23 were saying there was a mandatory meeting with</p> <p>24 everybody. Is that the meeting that you're</p> <p>25 referring to?</p>	<p>1 cousin's house on the way home from work and he'd</p> <p>2 support his cousin because he'd support whoever he</p> <p>3 wanted to support." Do you remember any</p> <p>4 conversation --</p> <p>5 A. If James -- if he told you that he lied.</p> <p>6 No, I haven't even talked to that man about that.</p> <p>7 Q. This is coming from your complaint; this</p> <p>8 is what you're saying.</p> <p>9 A. What's that?</p> <p>10 Q. What I just repeated.</p> <p>11 A. Say that again.</p> <p>12 Q. Yes, sir. I need to clarify, because</p> <p>13 this is your complaint. That's why I was asking</p> <p>14 about it.</p> <p>15 Paragraph 94, "James Ellis Jr. was a</p> <p>16 neighbor to Shawn Jones and he told Sheriff Bailey</p> <p>17 that he stopped at his cousin's house on his way</p> <p>18 home from work and he supported his cousin because</p> <p>19 he could support who he wanted to support."</p> <p>20 And it's okay if you don't recall that</p> <p>21 conversation taking place.</p> <p>22 A. Yeah.</p> <p>23 Q. Well, okay. I'll repeat, because you</p> <p>24 had indicated you didn't know where this was</p> <p>25 coming from?</p>

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<p>1 A. Yeah.</p> <p>2 Q. Did this really happen or not?</p> <p>3 A. I don't remember talking to the Sheriff</p> <p>4 about that.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. What happened?</p> <p>6 A. Nothing really happened. I just go up</p> <p>7 to Shawn house and we -- you know, like you live</p> <p>8 on Main Street. You can't miss it. Everybody</p> <p>9 pass by sees it. And I'll be up at his house</p> <p>10 we'll be cooking or whatever, just hanging out</p> <p>11 talking.</p> <p>12 Q. And Sheriff Bailey saw you?</p> <p>13 A. Yeah, he done came by more than once.</p> <p>14 Q. Do you recall him specifically catching</p> <p>15 you there?</p> <p>16 A. What you mean, "catching"?</p> <p>17 Q. Like driving be and looking at you?</p> <p>18 A. I seen him drive by and looking, yeah.</p> <p>19 Q. Did he mention that to you?</p> <p>20 A. Only thing he mentioned to me, that I</p> <p>21 need to be loyal to him. That was all he was</p> <p>22 saying.</p> <p>23 Q. And was there any comment like when you</p> <p>24 said you'll support who you want to support in</p> <p>25 response?</p>	<p>1 '23, did Sheriff Bailey talk to you anymore about</p> <p>2 needing your support?</p> <p>3 A. No, after that one time, that was it.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay.</p> <p>5 A. Until I got the letter saying that we</p> <p>6 was terminated.</p> <p>7 Q. And when you got the letter, did you</p> <p>8 talk to anybody about it?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay. Did you file a grievance?</p> <p>11 A. Yeah, I think we did. We all did at the</p> <p>12 same time.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. Do you recall -- this is a letter</p> <p>14 on February the 28th of 2024.</p> <p>15 A. Yeah. Yeah.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. So that was your letter?</p> <p>17 A. Yeah.</p> <p>18 Q. Fair enough.</p> <p>19 And we'll mark this -- I think it's</p> <p>20 seven.</p> <p>21 (Exhibit 7 marked for identification.)</p> <p>22 Q. (By Mr. Carpenter) Because there's a</p> <p>23 number of things in here about other people</p> <p>24 telling you -- for example, I'll give you,</p> <p>25 "Another one of my coworkers, Sheryl Rankin,</p>
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<p>1 A. Say what now?</p> <p>2 Q. Was there any response from you back</p> <p>3 from the Sheriff saying I'll support who I want to</p> <p>4 support?</p> <p>5 A. I don't remember that.</p> <p>6 Q. Yeah, in other words, he said what he</p> <p>7 said and just shook your head, something like</p> <p>8 that?</p> <p>9 A. Yeah, something like that.</p> <p>10 Q. All right. Do you recall -- I know you</p> <p>11 mentioned you attended that mandatory meeting, and</p> <p>12 then we talked about this incident. Was there any</p> <p>13 other incident where you were supporting anybody</p> <p>14 for that election?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. And what I mean by that, by</p> <p>17 clarification, is putting up signs, knocking up</p> <p>18 doors?</p> <p>19 A. I did that when Sheriff Walker was</p> <p>20 running again, I did that.</p> <p>21 Q. Right. But in the '23 election you --</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Fair enough.</p> <p>24 So before your -- before your not being</p> <p>25 rehired, and that would have been in December of</p>	<p>1 shared a conversation that Sheriff Bailey had with</p> <p>2 her."</p> <p>3 A. Yeah.</p> <p>4 Q. So people are coming to you reporting</p> <p>5 what the Sheriff is saying to him, but he's not</p> <p>6 coming to you?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. Gotcha.</p> <p>9 Now, you say, "In the town I live in,</p> <p>10 small, and words gets around, damaging my chances</p> <p>11 of getting gainful employment within my town."</p> <p>12 My question is: Did anybody that you</p> <p>13 talked to regarding getting employed or getting</p> <p>14 hired mentioned I'd like to, but given what the</p> <p>15 Warden had to say or the Sheriff had to say about</p> <p>16 you, I can't do it?</p> <p>17 A. I had a few people come to tell me that</p> <p>18 it was going to be hard to get a job since James</p> <p>19 Bailey is against you.</p> <p>20 Q. Any of the people that you applied to?</p> <p>21 A. People I applied to, no.</p> <p>22 Q. All right. And it says, "Even though I</p> <p>23 knew Sheriff Bailey was slandering my name..."</p> <p>24 Did anyone basically come in and say I</p> <p>25 heard Sheriff Bailey say this about you,</p>

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<p>1 specifically?</p> <p>2 A. I don't know the lady name. But, yeah,</p> <p>3 at the drug store up town, the lady said it. I</p> <p>4 don't know her name.</p> <p>5 Q. I follow you.</p> <p>6 And because it sounds like this was</p> <p>7 happening while you were working at The Facility?</p> <p>8 A. Yeah.</p> <p>9 Q. And then it says, "After Warded Kaho</p> <p>10 would not fire me based on Sheriff Bailey bias."</p> <p>11 Do you know -- did Sheriff{sic} Kaho</p> <p>12 ever tell you, "I was being pushed to fire you by</p> <p>13 Sheriff Bailey"?</p> <p>14 A. I was still there when Kaho was there.</p> <p>15 Q. Exactly. Because it sounds like to me</p> <p>16 when I read this sentence, "After Warden Kaho</p> <p>17 would not fire me, based on Sheriff Bailey's bias"</p> <p>18 --</p> <p>19 A. Yeah.</p> <p>20 Q. My question would be: Did Warden Kaho</p> <p>21 ever come to you and say Sheriff Bailey doesn't</p> <p>22 like you. I'm getting pressure to fire you"?</p> <p>23 A. I did hear that he didn't like me. I</p> <p>24 did hear that.</p> <p>25 Q. Who said that?</p>	<p>1 Q. Well, I need to know if you know. I</p> <p>2 don't know that I'll necessarily talk to them. Or</p> <p>3 Carroll may talk to them, because this may be</p> <p>4 something, you know, that he needs to follow up on</p> <p>5 too. But I will say I'm not going to out -- they</p> <p>6 still work there?</p> <p>7 A. Yeah.</p> <p>8 MR. CARPENTER: Carroll, what did you</p> <p>9 want to do. I mean, I can go and ask for the</p> <p>10 specifics and we may follow up with it. I guess</p> <p>11 we got to ask.</p> <p>12 MR. RHODES: Yeah.</p> <p>13 Q. (By Mr. Carpenter) We'll keep it as</p> <p>14 confidential as we can. Who are those folks?</p> <p>15 A. Officer Mims was one of them.</p> <p>16 Q. What was he saying?</p> <p>17 A. That the Sheriff had been saying that</p> <p>18 was bringing in this, bringing in that. And I'm</p> <p>19 not -- I don't have his back or whatever you want</p> <p>20 to call it.</p> <p>21 Q. And when you say bringing this in,</p> <p>22 contraband?</p> <p>23 A. Yeah.</p> <p>24 Q. Did anyone ever write you up for that?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p>
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<p>1 A. Warden Kaho.</p> <p>2 Q. And then it said there was some,</p> <p>3 basically, searches as you came to work?</p> <p>4 A. Yeah.</p> <p>5 Q. Was that for everybody or just for you?</p> <p>6 A. Well, everybody got searched. But they</p> <p>7 searched me harder, it looked like.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. And what did they do,</p> <p>9 specifically?</p> <p>10 A. Nothing, just took you to the restroom</p> <p>11 and searched you up and down and search your bag.</p> <p>12 Q. All right. And then, let's see. "After</p> <p>13 being terminated, I found one of the new hires was</p> <p>14 giving false information pertaining to my</p> <p>15 coworkers and me to Sheriff Bailey."</p> <p>16 Who was that person, if you know?</p> <p>17 A. Say what now?</p> <p>18 Q. This says, "After being terminated, I</p> <p>19 found out one of the new hires was giving false</p> <p>20 information pertaining to my coworkers and me to</p> <p>21 Sheriff Bailey."</p> <p>22 Do you know what that person was?</p> <p>23 A. Yeah, it was a couple them. Then it was</p> <p>24 an older guy too. I don't want to say his name</p> <p>25 because they still work there.</p>	<p>1 Q. And was there any -- to your knowledge,</p> <p>2 was there any actual proof of that ever happening?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. And then it goes on to say, "This</p> <p>5 person was recently arrested at The Facility for</p> <p>6 bringing in contraband, himself."</p> <p>7 A. Who that?</p> <p>8 Q. Well, that's what I was going to ask</p> <p>9 for, because the entire sentence says this, "The</p> <p>10 same new hire employee that feed Sheriff Bailey</p> <p>11 the false information about my coworkers and me</p> <p>12 was recently arrested at the Jefferson County</p> <p>13 Correctional Facility for bringing in contraband</p> <p>14 to the inmates."</p> <p>15 Do you know who that would be? Would</p> <p>16 that be Officer Mims by any chance?</p> <p>17 A. No, no. Probably Nichols. Officer</p> <p>18 Nichols.</p> <p>19 Q. Now, it says, "All the defamation,</p> <p>20 humiliation took a toll on my emotional and</p> <p>21 physical health."</p> <p>22 Did Sheriff Bailey, to your knowledge,</p> <p>23 ever say anything bad about you directly?</p> <p>24 A. Not to my face, no.</p> <p>25 Q. Did he -- did somebody say Sheriff</p>

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<p>1 Bailey told me you were, you know, a no-good</p> <p>2 person in any particular -- I'm just making stuff</p> <p>3 up. But did anybody ever say Sheriff Bailey's</p> <p>4 talking bad about you?</p> <p>5 A. Yeah, like I said, when I went to the</p> <p>6 store. I was told that at the store. The</p> <p>7 cashier, she told me. I was told that by -- Mims</p> <p>8 told me also that he talks about me all the time</p> <p>9 behind my back. Yeah.</p> <p>10 Q. Other than those two instances, do you</p> <p>11 know of anything else?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. And I understand.</p> <p>14 So then it indicated that you were</p> <p>15 starting having panic attacks. When did that</p> <p>16 start?</p> <p>17 A. Let's say around January.</p> <p>18 Q. January of '24?</p> <p>19 A. Yeah.</p> <p>20 Q. And how long did they go?</p> <p>21 A. Until October.</p> <p>22 Q. And do you have a thought as to why it</p> <p>23 may have gotten better?</p> <p>24 A. I guess I got a job, yeah, and then I</p> <p>25 could pay my bills and not steady worrying about</p>	<p>1 Do you know of him as a nurse or a doctor?</p> <p>2 A. I thought she was a doctor, yeah.</p> <p>3 Q. We'll cover that in just a few minutes.</p> <p>4 The reason I want to make sure we've got not two</p> <p>5 people, but one person. So we'll narrow that</p> <p>6 down, make sure.</p> <p>7 And who is Joyce Lee?</p> <p>8 A. She was a nurse at the prison.</p> <p>9 Q. All right. For emotional distress, as</p> <p>10 far as loss of appetite, how long did that last?</p> <p>11 A. I say until I got my job in September.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. Is it fair to say that sleepless</p> <p>13 nights, anxiety and depression pretty much the</p> <p>14 same period of time, until October?</p> <p>15 A. Yeah.</p> <p>16 Q. All right. I know we asked this of</p> <p>17 other folks. Do you -- most folks do have social</p> <p>18 media. I might have an account. I ain't looked.</p> <p>19 But did you ever mention anything about the</p> <p>20 Sheriff or any of this on social media, Facebook?</p> <p>21 A. No, I never did that.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay. We'll go into medical. Again,</p> <p>23 there's not a lot of them.</p> <p>24 On January the 25th, 2024 -- this would</p> <p>25 have been the -- you know, the following month</p>
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<p>1 it.</p> <p>2 Q. Got it. Fair enough.</p> <p>3 And other than -- I just want to make</p> <p>4 sure I understand. Other than the driveway</p> <p>5 incident, your car perhaps in Shawn Jones'</p> <p>6 driveway or this mandatory meeting, do you ever</p> <p>7 recall Sheriff Bailey asking you anything about</p> <p>8 his election?</p> <p>9 A. Nothing but at the meeting. He asked</p> <p>10 everybody to vote for him because he needed four</p> <p>11 more years -- he wanted four more years.</p> <p>12 Q. But anything other than that and the</p> <p>13 driveway incident?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay. And so going back, more</p> <p>16 generally, I see you have attended Jefferson</p> <p>17 County High School; finished the 11th grade?</p> <p>18 A. Yeah.</p> <p>19 Q. All right. And I'm just going through,</p> <p>20 at this point, your answers to these questions.</p> <p>21 A. Yeah.</p> <p>22 Q. You did see Dr. Turner at Jefferson</p> <p>23 health?</p> <p>24 A. Yeah.</p> <p>25 Q. Which is, as we were saying, a nurse.</p>	<p>1 after you had basically been not rehired from The</p> <p>2 Facility. Do you recall -- there was a</p> <p>3 Dr. Turner, that's why we were asking because</p> <p>4 she's listed here -- is it LaKeitha Turner?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>6 Q. So whether she's a doctor or a nurse or</p> <p>7 anything, that's who you were talking to?</p> <p>8 A. Yeah.</p> <p>9 Q. Fair enough.</p> <p>10 Now, in this situation on here, it</p> <p>11 indicates that you were seeing her for stress,</p> <p>12 depression and insomnia?</p> <p>13 A. Yeah.</p> <p>14 Q. All right. And then it was indicating</p> <p>15 that you had -- that you were depressed, that you</p> <p>16 were depressed or hopeless nearly every day?</p> <p>17 A. Yeah.</p> <p>18 Q. And this was all related to what</p> <p>19 happened at The Facility?</p> <p>20 A. Yeah.</p> <p>21 Q. All right. And so it looks like Nurse</p> <p>22 Turner gave you Wellbutrin; does that ring a bell?</p> <p>23 A. She gave me something. I don't know</p> <p>24 what it was.</p> <p>25 Q. All right. And something called</p>

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<p>1 hydroxyzine?</p> <p>2 A. Yeah.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you still take that?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. And then -- let's see. We're going to</p> <p>6 jump forward 10 months to November of 2024.</p> <p>7 Again, this would be with Nurse Turner. And I'll</p> <p>8 let you see these before asking you questions.</p> <p>9 These are the November 19 of 2024. There's a</p> <p>10 bunch of pages. In fact, I see a progress note</p> <p>11 here. We'll cover this.</p> <p>12 This would have been -- and this is Page</p> <p>13 22 of 340. This looks like you talked with</p> <p>14 someone with Telehealth, but this was a scheduling</p> <p>15 for a provider for depression with anxiety on</p> <p>16 January the 31st of '24. Do you recall talking to</p> <p>17 someone on Telehealth?</p> <p>18 A. Yeah, I remember talking to somebody. I</p> <p>19 don't know what we talked about though, yeah.</p> <p>20 Q. And they mentioned a lot about stopping</p> <p>21 smoking?</p> <p>22 A. Yeah, yeah.</p> <p>23 Q. Fair enough. Do you recall seeing</p> <p>24 anyone Telehealth after January 31st?</p> <p>25 A. No. They called back but -- they made a</p>	<p>1 but it says "no visit," so there's not much to</p> <p>2 report on that.</p> <p>3 This appears to be -- and I guess I</p> <p>4 should ask this question first. I've got a</p> <p>5 medical note from February the 20th of 2025, which</p> <p>6 would have been about two months ago. Do you know</p> <p>7 if you've been to a doctor since then?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Fair enough. So this would be the last</p> <p>10 one. And here, as well, it indicates that you --</p> <p>11 basically your depression has lifted, because it's</p> <p>12 showing a score of zero?</p> <p>13 A. Yeah.</p> <p>14 Q. Would that be correct?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. And so in this case you were there for,</p> <p>17 it looks like, medication refill?</p> <p>18 A. Yeah.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. All right. And it looks like, as</p> <p>20 with me, they're trying to get you to lose weight</p> <p>21 and do exercise?</p> <p>22 A. Yeah.</p> <p>23 Q. It's not working for me either. It</p> <p>24 might be working for you.</p> <p>25 All right.</p>
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<p>1 appointment but I didn't show up or something.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay. Fair enough.</p> <p>3 And then this is -- at this point, this</p> <p>4 is the -- a medical note from November of 2024 and</p> <p>5 it has a depression screening of zero, of saying</p> <p>6 that no -- you know, not depressed or --</p> <p>7 A. Yeah.</p> <p>8 Q. Is that a fair assessment from November?</p> <p>9 This would have been a month after you started at</p> <p>10 Alcorn?</p> <p>11 A. Yeah.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. Because you had a job and so a</p> <p>13 lot of the anxiety was alleviated?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah.</p> <p>15 Q. And it looks like, here, in what you're</p> <p>16 taking, you are taking hydroxyzine, which was one</p> <p>17 of the two medications that they started you in</p> <p>18 January, but that you were not taking Wellbutrin</p> <p>19 anymore; is that fair to say?</p> <p>20 A. To be honest with you, I take like six</p> <p>21 pills a day. I don't know what --</p> <p>22 Q. Absolutely. From aspirin to Losartan?</p> <p>23 A. Yeah.</p> <p>24 Q. And then we've got -- I think this is</p> <p>25 the last medical note. There was a December note,</p>	<p>1 MR. CARPENTER: That's all the questions</p> <p>2 I have, Carroll.</p> <p>3 MR. RHODES: Just a couple.</p> <p>4 MR. CARPENTER: And we'll add these</p> <p>5 as -- this will be eight.</p> <p>6 MR. RHODES: Exhibit 8.</p> <p>7 (Exhibit 8 marked for identification.)</p> <p>8 EXAMINATION BY MR. RHODES:</p> <p>9 Q. You testified about the lady at the</p> <p>10 grocery store and the coworker who had told you</p> <p>11 that -- or you had heard from them that Sheriff</p> <p>12 Bailey was going to get rid of the people who</p> <p>13 didn't support him?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah.</p> <p>15 Q. I want to ask you: Have you heard it</p> <p>16 from anywhere else in the community, anybody else</p> <p>17 you can think of?</p> <p>18 A. I mean, I heard it -- you know, a couple</p> <p>19 of people in the streets talking, but -- yeah.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay. And I'm trying to just figure out</p> <p>21 how widespread was the rumor that Sheriff Bailey</p> <p>22 was going to get --</p> <p>23 A. Yeah. Well, I heard a few other people</p> <p>24 in the streets.</p> <p>25 Q. You heard it from a few other people?</p>


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1 A. Yeah, that he was going to get rid of
 2 all us.
 3 Q. But you just can't recall their names
 4 right now?
 5 A. No.
 6 EXAMINATION BY MR. CARPENTER:
 7 Q. And for the people who you didn't
 8 recall -- and that's fine, I get it -- but did
 9 they tell you where they were getting it from?
 10 A. Well, I had one or two to say they got
 11 it from the Sheriff.
 12 Q. Okay.
 13 A. And then I had a couple say they got it
 14 from the Sheriff's friends.
 15 Q. Okay. Do you know -- from what I'm
 16 understanding from conversation, you're not sure
 17 exactly who it was that was telling you by name?
 18 A. No, just hearing it, going to the gas
 19 station or where them people talking.
 20 Q. All right. I think that's got it.
 21 (Time Noted: 2:26 p.m.)
 22 SIGNATURE/NOT WAIVED
 23
 24 ORIGINAL: MR. CARPENTER, ESQ.
 25 COPY: MR. RHODES, ESQ.

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1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER
 2 I, Robin G. Burwell, Court Reporter and
 3 Notary Public, in and for the State of Mississippi,
 4 hereby certify that the foregoing contains a true
 5 and correct transcript of the testimony of JAMES
 6 ELLIS, as taken by me in the aforementioned matter
 7 at the time and place heretofore stated, as taken by
 8 stenotype and later reduced to typewritten form
 9 under my supervision by means of computer-aided
 10 transcription.
 11 I further certify that under the authority
 12 vested in me by the State of Mississippi that the
 13 witness was placed under oath by me to truthfully
 14 answer all questions in the matter.
 15 I further certify that, to the best of my
 16 knowledge, I am not in the employ of or related to
 17 any party in this matter and have no interest,
 18 monetary or otherwise, in the final outcome of this
 19 matter.
 20 Witness my signature and seal this the
 21 30th day of April, 2025.
 22 
 23 ROBIN G. BURWELL, #1651
 24 CRR, RPR, CCR
 25 My Commission Expires:
 April 6, 2029

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1 CERTIFICATE OF DEPONENT
 2 DEPONENT: JAMES ELLIS
 3 DATE: April 18, 2025
 4 CASE STYLE: SMITH, ET AL vs. JEFFERSON COUNTY,
 5 MISSISSIPPI, ET AL
 6 ORIGINAL TO: THOMAS L. CARPENTER, ESQ.
 7 I, the above-named deponent in the
 8 deposition taken in the herein styled and numbered
 9 cause, certify that I have examined the deposition
 10 taken on the date above as to the correctness
 11 thereof, and that after reading said pages, I find
 12 them to contain a full and true transcript of the
 13 testimony as given by me.
 14 Subject to those corrections listed below,
 15 if any, I find the transcript to be the correct
 16 testimony I gave at the aforesaid time and place.
 17 Page Line Comments
 18 _____
 19 _____
 20 _____
 21 _____
 22 _____
 23 _____
 24 _____
 25 _____
 This the ____ day of _____, 2025.
 JAMES ELLIS
 State of Mississippi
 County of _____
 Subscribed and sworn to before me, this the
 ____ day of _____, 2025.
 My Commission Expires: _____

 Notary Public

8 (Pages 26 to 28)